

MEMORANDUM FOR: OLC,  78-2709/2

Herewith a response to your SOS.  
I suggest adding a paragraph substantially as the attached to the letter at the top of the second page. As drafted the letter does end on an up beat, suggesting there is no problem. But some of our people feel fairly strongly that there is a problem, especially as regards the knowledge and skills required for expertise on Eastern Europe (including the USSR) and East and Southeast Asia. My paragraph tries to shift the emphasis away from our good fortune to our anticipated future need.

Coordinator for Academic Relations  
NFAC

It is conceivable, however, that we have been the beneficiaries of a temporary glut of talent, which has resulted from depression in the academic employment market. As I understand, the experience of this falling demand is compelling some institutions to terminate some of the programs in which we are most interested, for example, programs of training in foreign languages and of education and research in regional studies. As a corollary of that development, I am also told that many of the better students have re-examined their education objectives and are moving into fields, ~~such as~~ such as economics and the law, where they expect the employment prospects to be more promising. Naturally I have nothing against economics and the law, but this Agency (along with some other parts of the Federal Government) will obviously suffer if the pool of young scholars to which it looks ~~to fill~~ to fill ~~some~~ some of its most critical talent requirements is diminished in quality or depleted in quantity. For this reason, despite our recent good fortune as I have described it, I have an especial interest in supporting your effort to improve the quality of international education.